ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES.

OF THE

FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Sipsey Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

Dunn's Creek Church,

From the 27th to the 28th of September, 1893,

JAS. MILLS, JR.,
Moderator.
Sipsey Turnpike, Ala.

J. B. FERGUSON,
Clerk.
Samantha, Ala,

Next Session to meet with Spring Hill Church, on Wednesday before the First Sabbath in October, 1894.

BURTON & WEATHERFORD, PRINTERS, TUSCALOOSA, ALA.

MINUTES.

The Fourth Annual Session of the Sipsey Baptist Association was held with Dunn's Creek Church, on September 27th and 28th, 1893. The introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. J. S. White, from II. Cor., 6:1. At the close of the discourse, a recess of 1½ hours was given for refreshments; after which the delegates assembled in the house, and were called to order by the former Moderator, Jas. Mills, Jr. Devotional exercises were conducted by the Moderator.

The letters from the churches were called for, which were read by J. A. Mitchel and Jas. White, and delegates names were enrolled, as follows: (Absentees marked thus *)

Friendship—I. L. Collins, J. B. Ferguson, N. B. Ramsey.*
New Hope—I. B. Davis, R. L. South,* H. N. Davis.*
Sardis—J. S. White, B L. Moore,* W. F. Burge.
Mt. Hebron—B. M. Freeman, T. Winters,* C. Winters.
Bethabara—C. B. Hendrix, T. F. Montgomery, D. D. Mitchel.
Corinth—James Mills, Jr., E. Mayfield, J. A. Mitchel.
Dunn's Creek—James White, R. J. Mayfield, Jesse Mustin.
Moore's Bridge—J. A. Andrews, D. M. Montgomery, H. Sullivant.
Macedonia—H. Anderson, L. R. Hallman,* A. E. Patterson.
Spring Hill—A Guin, P. D. Sudduth, T. T. Moore.
Chapel Hill—V. Davis, Jas. Sanders, W. H. Brown.*
Pleasant Ridge—J. F. Ashcraft, G. W Ashcraft, J. M. Ashcraft.
Double Branch—H. A. Skelton, S. M. Junkin, J. A. Awtry.
Mt. Tabor—J. M. Chism,* R. O Richardson, J. T. Sudduth.
Flat Woods—W. F. Jones, T. G. Burks, C. R. Hall.*
Pleasant Grove—J. W. Brown, Jas Sullivant,* Henry Elmore.*

The body then proceeded to elect officers, which resulted in the choice of Jas. Mills, Jr., Moderator, J. B. Ferguson, Clerk.

The body being ready for business, proceeded:

1. Opened the doors of Association for reception of churches.

2. Received correspondents. Rev. S. E. Hodge and J. R. Belle came forward and were received from Tuskaloosa Ass'n.

3. Returned correspondence as follows:

Tuskaloosa—Jas. White, H. W. Gardner, and James Mills, Jr.
Union—A. M. Mills, E. Mayfield, J. A. Mitchel.
New River—J. M. Chism, J. S. White, I. B. Davis, J. A. Andrews.

4. Appointed Committees as follows:

Devotion—D. M. Montgomery, B. M. Freeman, P. D. Sudduth, and the Deacons of Dunn's Creek Church.
Arrangements—James White, I. B. Davis, H. Sullivant, J. B. Ferguson.
Finance—A. Guin, J. A. Mitchel, A. E. Patterson.
Documents—R.O.Richardson, J.M.Ashcraft, E.B.Hendrix, R.J.Mayfield.

Nominations—Jas. White, C. Winters, J. A. Awtry.
Religious Literature—J. F. Ashcraft, H, Anderson, R. O. Richardson,
Education—A. E. Patterson, T. F. Montgomery, T. T. Moore.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sabbath Schools—G. W. Ashcraft, J. S. White, T. J. Burks.
Temperance—J. B. Ferguson, E. Mayfield, H. A. Skelton, J. A. Andrews.
Missions—J. M. Ashcraft, I. L. Collins, L. Brown.
Executive Committee—J. F. Ashcraft, A. M. Mills, A. Guin.
Superannuated Ministers—Jas. White, S. M. Junkins, J. W. Brown.

Adjourned to 8:30 to-morrow morning.

SEPTEMBER 28.

The body met according to adjournment. Devotional exercises conducted by the Moderator. Prayer by G. W. Ashcraft.

Called for report of Committee on Arrangements, which was adopted. (See front inside cover page.)

1. Read Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum.

2. Adopted the report of Sabbath School Committee as follows:

We have held a Sabbath School convention in each district, which was well attended by the delegates from the Sunday Schools of the Association, which are eleven in number. We think our conventions are quite a blessing to our Sabbath School interest, and think our people are becoming much more interested in this part of Christian work than at any time in the past. Respectfully, I. B. DAVIS, Chairman.

3. Received report of Mission Board, as follows:

We engaged Rev. J. B. Ferguson to hold a meeting with Pleasant Grove Church; during the meeting seven were baptized and one received by letter. The church was very much revived and encouraged. Bro. Ferguson labored 9½ days for us, for which we paid him $9.50. We have not learned of any other destitution in our Association. We have on hand $1.10. Respectfully, J F. ASHCRAFT, Chairman.

4. Report of District meetings was adopted as follows:

The First District will meet with Moore's Bridge Church on Friday before the 3rd Sabbath in August, 1894. To preach the the Introductory Sermon, Rev. R. J. Mayfield; J. A. Andrews, alternate. Queries—1st, What are the Scriptural evidences of a call to the Gospel ministry? Opened by J. S. White and F. E. Mills. 2nd, What is sinning against the Holy Ghost? Opened by G. D. Mayfield and J. A. Andrews. 3rd, Any important question that may be suggested during the meeting.

J. D. MAYFIELD, Clerk. J. B. FERGUSON, Moderator.

The meeting of the Second District will convene with Mt. Tabor Church, on Friday before the 3rd Sabbath in Sept., 1894. Rev. J. M. Chism to preach the Introductory Sermon, I. N. Ashcraft alternate. 1st Query; Is foot-washing an ordinance? If so why so, and if not, why not? Opened by J. M. Chism and I. N. Ashcraft. 2nd: What relation

does the church sustain to the Pastor and the Pastor to the church? Opened by J. F. Ashcraft and R. H. Bradley. 3rd: How may a man know his call to the Gospel ministry? Opened by J. M. Chism and G. W. Ashcraft. 4th: Did the Wolf catch the hireling or the sheep? Opened by I. N. Ashcraft and A. Guin. We request that the next session of the Association be held with Spring Hill Church.

J. Champion, Clerk. R. H. Bradley, Moderator.

Adjourned to hear the missionary sermon, which was delivered by Rev. I. L. Collins from 2nd Cor., 16—9, to a large and attentive audience, and encouraged by the earnest attention given, we have reason to hope that much good will result from the discourse.

After dinner (which was furnished in abundance by the people of the community), the body was called to order, Prayer by J. B. Ferguson.

5. Received report on Nominations:

J. B. Ferguson to preach the Introductory Sermon, on the subject of the final perseverance of the Saints; I. L. Collins, alternate. Rev. J. A. Andrews to preach the missionary sermon, J. M. Chism, alternate.

Respectfully, Jas. White, Chairman.

6. Received report on Documents:

We find there has been 66 persons baptized, 41 received by letter, and 7 restored, total number received 114. Also, there have been 37 dismissed with letters, 15 excluded, and 3 deaths, total loss 55, net gain 59. There are 11 Sabbath Schools in our Association. We find nothing more worthy of your attention.

Respectfully, R. O. Richardson, Chairman.

7. Received report on Religious Literature as follows:

We recommend the Alabama Baptist to all of our people as an able and reliable religious journal, and think the head of each family should subscribe for it, and would recommend Kind Words to all of our Sunday Schools. Respectfully, J. F. Ashcraft, Chairman.

8. Received report on Education as follows:

The Missionary Baptists are considerably interested in the cause of Education, which interest is growing in proportion to the accumulation of strength by the denomination, education being next to the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us as baptists and members of the Sipsey Association, look well to the education of the rising generation, both literally and religiously.

Respectfully, A. E. Paterson, Chairman.

9. Received report on Superanuated Ministers:

On enquiring we find that brother I. L. Collins is blind and needs help from the Association. Respectfully, Jas. White, Chairman.

10. Received Treasurer's report:

Received for minutes and Associational fund, $24.15; State Missions,

$10.60, Foreign Mission, $1.00; Indigent Ministers, $4.30; total, $40.05. Disbursed as follows: For printing minutes, $14.15; Clerk's fee, $10.00; Mission Board, $10.60; Foreign Missions, $1.00; Rev. I. L. Collins, $4.30, Total, $40.05. Respectfully submitted, J. B. Ferguson, Tr.

11. Appointed J. B. Ferguson Treasurer.

12. Received report on Temperance, as follows:

Since last we met there has been no visible growth of intemperance with us. We as a country people are rid of the pest of the whisky shop, but what does this amount to, when our country is filled with illicit distilleries? We as a religious body should stamp our disapproval of the monster evil that to-day invades our country, and brings more misery, shame, and death than all other evils known to us. It does not only bring these evils, but hangs a dark gloom over the future, as no drunkard shall enter the Kingdom of God. Thus we see, it destroys both soul and body. Why can't we rid ourselves of this evil? To-day, in this free country, our cities are being ruled by the saloons and their keepers, and the manufacturers of intoxicating drinks are combining and striving to control our legislatures, and even our courts. Wine is a mocker, and strong drink is raging, and he that is deceived is not wise. Who hath woe, who hath sorrow, who hath contention, who hath babbling, who hath wounds without cause, who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that seek mixed wine. Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning that they may follow strong drink. The time has come when Christians must take a resolute stand for right, to roll back the fearful tide of intemperance which is sweeping so many thousands towards a drunkard's grave. Let us be dutiful, and do our part to banish this dreadful curse from our land.

Respectfully submitted, W. F. Jones, Acting Chm.

13. Received report on Finance, as follows:

We have received for Minutes, $13.35; for Associational Purposes, $9.30; for Rev. I. L. Collins, 70c; Foreign Missions, $2.90, State Missions, $1.45; and from Dunn's Creek Church: Foreign Missions, $1.50; Home Missions, $1.50, State Missions, 42.60. A. Guin, Chm.

14. Received report of Sabbath School Convention of the First District:

The Convention organized by selecting J. B. Ferguson President, and R. L. South Secretary. The body then proceeded to discuss some very important questions, which were well handled and attentively listened to by a very large audience. The next Convention will meet with Mt. Hebron Church, on Friday before the 5th Sabbath in July, 1894. Introductory sermon by Rev. I.L. Collins; J.B. Ferguson, alternate. Preaching on Sabbath by J. A. Andrews; F. E. Mills, alternate. Queries for discussion: 1st, Does the Bible sustain Sunday School work? If so, where? To be opened by J. S. White and G. D. Mayfield. 2nd, In what way should a Sabbath School be conducted, to be of greatest benefit? Opened by James Mills, Jr., and A. E. Patterson. 3d. What should be the qualifications of superintendents and teachers of Sunday Schools? Opened by R. L. South and T. H. Spencer. 4th, What are the duties of

children to their parents? Opened by D. E. Windham and R. E. Hocut.

R. L. South, Secretary.

15. Called for miscellaneous business and adopted the following resolutions:

1st. Resolved, That our Clerk receive ten dollars for his services,and that he shall get as many copies of these minutes printed as the minute fund will pay for, and send each church its number of minutes.

2nd. Resolved, That we tender our thanks to Dunn's Creek Church and community for their unbounded hospitality to us during the present session of the Association.

3rd. Resolved, That we now adjourn, to meet with Spring Hill Church, on Wednesday before the first Sabbath in October, 1894.

Prayer by I. L. Collins. The delegates and congregation then engaged in singing a hymn and taking the parting hand. Thus closed the 4th session of the Sipsey Baptist Association. Benediction by J. A. Andrews.

J. B. Ferguson, Clerk.

Jas. Mills, Jr., Moderator.

Ordained Ministers.—R. J. Mayfield, I. N. Ashcraft, J. S. Shirley, F. E. Mills, J. A. Andrews, J. S. White, I. L. Collins, J. B. Ferguson.

Licensed Minister.—J. B. Davis.

CONSTITUTION.

1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different Churches in our union, who, on presenting their letters, shall be entitled to seats.

2. The Association thus formed, a majority of the members present shall choose by ballot, a Moderator and Clerk, who shall serve one year.

3. This Association shall be known as the Sipsey Baptist Association, which shall have the privilege to engage in missionary work in all its bearings, yet so that churches and individual members are left free, and that giving or withholding shall not be a bar to membership.

4. To give churches the best advice she can in all matters of difficulties, and if the union be broken between any of the sister churches, to enquire into the cause of the breach, and use her best endeavors to remove the difficulty; provided the agrieved has followed the instructions laid down in the 18th chapter of Matthew; but if the breach cannot be repaired, to withdraw from any church or churches which she may consider unsound in doctrine or immoral in practice, until the same can be reconciled.

5. The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association a written communication, giving the name of the delegates, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excluded, and deceased, since the last session.

6. Each church shall be entitled to three delegates and no more. Any church failing to represent at any annual session, shall be required to give a reason for her failure, at the next session.

7. Churches may be admitted into this Association who petition by letter and delegates, and upon examination, if found orderly and orthodox, may be received, at the discretion of the Association, when the Moderator shall give the right hand of fellowship to said delegates.

8. Any church in our union may send queries to the Association, asking advice, when it shall be the duty of the Association to answer the same as she may think best.

9. Voting shall be confined exclusively to the body in all acts respecting their internal concerns.

10. The Association shall not adjourn any session until she shall have finished all business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

11. The minutes of the Association shall be read, and corrected if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the session rises.

12. The Association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of the members present, except to change or amend the Constitution.

13. Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any session, when two thirds of the delegates present are in favor of such amendment.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

Article 1. We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe that the Scriptures, comprising the Old and New Testament, are the Word of God, the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of Election through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

5. We believe in man's incapacity, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Christ only.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated, and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

8. We believe that the Saints shall be preserved in Grace, and never fall finally away.

9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Ordinances of Jesus Christ, and the true believers are the only subjects of Baptism, and that by Immersion is the only Apostolic mode.

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and in the General Judgment, and that the felicity of the righteous and punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

11. We believe that no minister has any right to administer the ordinances of the Church, but one who is regularly baptized, called of God, and comes under the imposition of the hands of Presbytery.

12. We believe that none but legally baptized members have a right to commune at the Lord's Table.

RULES OF DECORUM.

Article 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have a discretionary right to call a member to order at any time.

3. A member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time.

4. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, address the Moderator, and, on obtaining permission, proceed.

5. The Moderator, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same in naming the person, or otherwise.

6. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him who made it.

7. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided on or withdrawn before another shall be offered.

8. When a motion is taken up, after allowing time for the debates, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject in such mode as he may determine.

9. The Moderator shall announce the decision of the body.

10. Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission of the Mod.

11. No member shall speak more than twice on the same proposition, without leave of the Association.

12. The appellation of "Brother" shall be used in the Association by members in their address to one another.

13. The names of members shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

15. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time, but he shall not vote on any question unless the Association be equally divided.

16. Any member violating these rules, shall be reproved by the Moderator at his discretion, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory by Appointee.
2. Read Letters and enroll names of delegates
3. Elect officers.
4. Open door of Association for reception of churches.
5. Receive correspondents.
6. Appoint committees.
7. Read Constitution, Articles of Faith, and Rules of Decorum.
8. Call for reports of committees, as follows: 1. Sabbath Schools; 2. Temperance; 3. Missions; 4 Executive Committee; 5. District Meetings; 6. Nominations; 7. Sabbath School Conventions; 8, Documents; 9. Religious Literature; 10. Education; 11. Superannuated Ministers; 12. Finance; 13. Treasurer's Report; 14. Appoint Treasurer; 15. Miscellaneous Business.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

	CHURCH.	PASTOR.	PASTOR'S P. O.	CLERK.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored.	Dis. by Letter.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.	Sabbath Meetings	Date of Constitution.	Minute Fund.	Associational Fund.
1st District.	Friendship	L. L. Collins	Ridge	N. B. Ramsey	7	3	1	1	1		63	1		$ 1 00	$ 50
	New Hope	L. L. Collins	Ridge	R. L. South		4	1				31	4		1 00	50
	Sardis	M. W. Olive	Bankston	N. J. Kelly	6	1		4			19	4		50	50
	Mt. Hebron	J. S White	Ridge	T. H. Spencer	2	2		6	1	1	32	2		1 00	50
	Bethabara	F. E. Mills	Humphrey	G. L. Traweek	8	1			2		55	4	1843	80	50
	Corinth	S. E. Hodge	Humphrey	J. A. Mitchel	6	1	1	6	5		94	4		1 15	75
	Dunn's Creek	J. M. Chism	Palmetto	Jas. White	6	3	3		2		125	2	1834	1 50	1 00
	Moore's Bridge	J. A. Andrews	Moore's Bridge'	D. E. Windham		2		5		1	45	3		1 00	75
	Macedonia	J. J. Patterson	Ridge	A. C. Patterson	3	6		2			20	1		50	50
2nd District.	Spring Hill	J. M. Chism	Palmetto	A. Guin		4	1				71	1		75	75
	Oak Ridge	J. A. Estes	Palmetto	A. L. Walker							25				
	Chapel Hill	L. L. Collins	Ridge	W. H. Brown	5	3		7			66	2	1869	50	50
	Pleasant Ridge	Frank Wilson	Pilgrim	J. F. Ashcraft	6	2		1		1	26	3		75	50
	Double Branch	J. A. Andrews	Moore's Bridge	J. A. Awtrey		1					31	2		75	25
	Mt. Tabor	J. M. Chism	Palmetto	J. W. Dollar	3	2		3	2		66	4		1 00	50
	Flat Woods	S. E. Hodge	Humphrey	W. F. Jones	7	5		2			60	3		60	30
	Pleasant Grove	J. A. Andrews	Moore's Bridge	J. W. Brown	7	1			2		28	4		50	1 00
					66	41	7	47	16	4	857			$13 30	$ 9 30

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